

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application.

Claims 19 and 21 are amended above to make them dependent upon independent claim 1.

No new matter is added to the application by way of this amendment.

I. THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The examiner required restriction of the claims of the above-identified to one of three inventions. As an initial matter, the applicants traverse the examiner's Restriction Requirement on the basis that all of the pending claims include common special technical features that cause them to be patentable over the prior art. For example, independent claims 1, 19 and 21 all include essentially the same technical features as independent claim 1. Therefore, absent a showing by the examiner that claim 1 is unpatentable, all pending claims are entitled to be examined together.

However, in order to expedite the examination of all pending application claims, the applicants have amended independent claims 19 and 21 above to depend upon claim 1. As a result, all pending application claims 1-21, by default, include the same common special technical features and must be examined together.

II. APPLICANT'S ELECTION

The applicant notes that regardless of their traverse and amendments to claims 19 and 21, they still must make a provisional claim election. The applicant hereby provisionally elects to proceed with the examination of the Group I invention of claims 1-18.

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